

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of using an electronic intermediate carrier configured to perform ~~method for~~ cashless processing of a transaction for paying for a service between an owner of a personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device and a payee, comprising the steps:

~~transmitting~~ at a first time (t1), receiving a data record assigned to the service from the an owner's personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device, directly or indirectly by ~~means of~~ a personal electronic device of the owner; ~~to an electronic intermediate carrier which is formed as a transferable unit physically separate from the owner's personal electronic means of payment, and~~

at a second time (t2) which is later than the first time (t1), checking the data record or data derived therefrom in the electronic intermediate carrier by a receiving device of the payee as to whether the service was rendered correctly[[,]]; and

deleting or invalidating the data record completely or with regard to the data derived therefrom in the electronic intermediate carrier if the service was rendered correctly, so as to prevent the data record from being used several times for payment transactions,

wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is formed as a transferable unit physically separate from the owner's personal electronic payment device or personal electronic device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including the step: transmitting the data record or data derived therefrom from the electronic intermediate carrier to the payee.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including the step of securing the data record cryptographically.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data record depends on at least one of individual data of the electronic intermediate carrier and a consecutive character string.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, including encrypting the data record ~~by means of~~ with a public key of the payee.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data record depends on personal data of the owner of the personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data record represents at least one amount of money or at least one unit of value.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is not in the possession of the owner of the personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device at the second time (t2).

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data transmission is effected contactlessly at at least one of the first time (t1) and the second time (t2).

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including the step of using the cashless payment transaction for paying postage for mail.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the intermediate carrier is fastened detachably to mail.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein information on at least one of the time and place of the delivery of the mail is stored in the electronic intermediate carrier.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including visualizing information in connection with the data record on the intermediate carrier.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including fastening the intermediate carrier detachably to an object.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, including transmitting from the intermediate carrier to the personal electronic payment device data on the functionality required for transmitting a data record from the personal electronic means of payment device or a personal device to the intermediate carrier ~~from the intermediate carrier to the personal means of payment or the personal device.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A system for cashless processing of a transaction for paying for a service, comprising a personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device of an owner, an impersonal electronic intermediate carrier arranged to be physically separate from the personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device, and a receiving device of a payee, wherein the personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device is arranged to transmit a data record assigned to the service directly to the electronic intermediate carrier, or a personal device of the owner is provided for transmitting the data record from the personal electronic ~~means of~~ payment device to the electronic intermediate carrier, and the receiving device is arranged to check the data record as to whether it renders the service correctly and to invalidate or delete the data record completely or with regard to the data derived therefrom, if the service was rendered correctly, so as to prevent the data carrier from being used several times for payment transactions.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is formed as a transponder.

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is set up for repeated transmission of data records.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the functionality required for transmitting a data record from the personal means of payment or a personal device to the intermediate carrier is stored as an application on the electronic intermediate carrier.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier has a display device for visualizing information in connection with a

data record.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the personal device is an intelligent device having a reading device for near field communication with a transponder.

23. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein the personal electronic payment device ~~intelligent device~~ is a mobile telephone.

24. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein the personal electronic ~~means of payment~~ device is formed as a chip card, or as a security module of a mobile telephone.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the receiving device has a checking device as well as at least one additional component which provides reference information for checking a data record.